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\$1.5 Million to Improve the Integrity of System

OET was recently notified of an award of approximately \$1.5 million in Supplemental Budget Request (SBR) funds from the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) that will be utilized to strengthen Kentucky's unemployment insurance (UI) system. Because of a nationally strong economic performance and lower than expected unemployment insurance claims, USDOL provided supplemental funding to many states to use as grants to improve the integrity of their UI systems.

Each state was given the opportunity to apply for funding for specific grants in categories related to:

- Preventing, Detecting and Recovering Improper Benefit Payments
- Promoting Rapid Reemployment of Beneficiaries
- Strengthening Data Integrity and Security
- State Unemployment Tax Act (SUTA) Dumping

Kentucky successfully received funding for nine of the 14 SBRs that were submitted.

As part of the special prevention, detection and recovery of improper benefit payments grant, the OET Division of Unemployment Insurance will buy software to access the National Directory of New Hires automated system which can block individuals from claiming unentitled benefits after they return to work and match claims data with other government databases to detect fraudulent claims.

Funding will also assist OET's Workforce and Employment Services Division in promoting quick reemployment of beneficiaries and job seekers by using automated systems that will increase the likelihood of an accurate job match between customer and employer.

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Glasgow Center and Hart County Chamber Host Job Fair

On Oct. 6, 2005, the Glasgow Area Career Center and the Hart County Chamber of Commerce hosted a job fair with over 250 individuals participating.

The job fair began with a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Hart County Public Library with 11 employers and agencies participating. Also attending was T. Marzetti, a specialty foods company that will open a new facility in June 2006. The company, which will add up to 250 new jobs to the community, provided information on its future employment opportunities.



Barry Symons, veterans representative with the Glasgow Career Center, is shown, center, at the Hart County job fair ribbon cutting ceremony with all participating employers including Dart Container, Quality Personnel, Reserve Network, Staff Management, Dairy Queen, Avon and T. Marzetti.

State and military agencies that participated were the Marine Corps, Kentucky National Guard, Hart County Community Action Agency and Hart County Adult Education.

Several of the employers provided door prizes that were given away during the job fair and the Hart County Judge and Fiscal Court provided lunch. Several job seekers were hired during the course of the day and others submitted applications and resumes for future job openings.

OET and One Stops Join UPS Hire Kentucky Effort

In September 2005, UPS began touring college fairs and OET and One-Stop offices to familiarize people about jobs at UPS and the benefits that accompany them. The last of the 25 visits was held in Somerset on Oct. 27, 2005.

The tour was scheduled in preparation to recruit staff for the UPS heavy airfreight facility that will open in June 2006. Approximately 650 part-time positions will be needed for the Louisville facility.

UPS began interviews with the high school and community college graduates in November. In addition, UPS representatives will again be contacting the local OET offices and One Stop Career Centers throughout the state to schedule interviews with any candidates the offices have who are interested in the UPS positions.

The "Hire Kentucky" program was designed to recruit high school students from across the state to come to Louisville to participate in Metropolitan College.

Metropolitan College is a program coordinated by UPS, the state of **Kentucky**, the **University of Louisville** and **Jefferson Community and Technical College**. The program requires that students work part-time in the UPS Louisville operations between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. in exchange for a free education at any one of the three colleges. UPS pays half the tuition and the state pays the other half.

Since students work at night and sleep and attend classes during the day, UPS works with the universities involved to arrange special class schedules. UPS also coordinates various committees and organizations for Metropolitan students and faculty, in addition to arranging activities for students in the program.

OET and WIAs Assist Hurricane Katrina and Rita Victims

OET and the Workforce Investment Areas (WIA), whether individually or in joint efforts with other local, state and federal agencies and organizations, have provided unemployment and job opportunity assistance to the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

As of November 1, 332 Interstate Disaster Related Unemployment Insurance claims have been taken for Louisiana victims and 38 for Mississippi. These numbers do not reflect the numerous instances of staff providing toll-free numbers and/or Web sites to individuals to file their claims by phone or Internet.

On Sept. 10, the Kentucky Bluegrass WIA's mobile unit, equipped with 10 laptops, was driven to the coast so that staff could assist with unemployment claims filing and job search.

Over the last several months, job fairs were organized or expanded to assist these individuals find employment. One example is the Community Action Partnership and the Kentuckian Works One Stop Career Center job fair held in September. They had to limit the number of employers that participated to 85 because Louisville Gardens was at capacity.

Also in September, OET and the Jefferson County Public Schools, Adult Education, held a Job Lab for Katrina Displaced Workers. Computers and phones were available as well as employment specialists and Adult Education staff to assist in work search and registration and to instruct customers on basic computer skills.

\$200,000 to Assist Displaced Individuals

The Kentucky Department for Workforce Investment, OET, has received \$200,000 from the US Department of Labor to contract with two reintegration counselors for up to six months.

These highly skilled counselors will help individuals displaced due to the recent hurricanes return to self-sustaining employment with opportunities for career advancement. Over 70 of Kentucky's counties have reported evacuees.

The counselors will be under contract with and located in the West Kentucky Workforce Investment Area (serving west Kentucky) and the Bluegrass Workforce Investment Area (serving east Kentucky including the Louisville area).

They will assist hurricane victims in reestablishing normalcy and self-sufficiency in their lives, especially with services funded through the Department of Labor, such as Workforce Investment Act (WIA) training, temporary jobs, and unemployment insurance. Other services, through partner agencies, can include housing, transportation, clothing and childcare.

The counselors are equipped with a myriad of on-line tools as well as access to all services provided through local area One-Stop career centers.

If the evacuees move from one relocation site to another, or if they are re-united with family in another geographic area from the initial site, the Reintegration Counselor will arrange for connectivity of services with the One-Stop center in the new local area.

New Members Added to Governor's Advisory Board

At the September meeting of the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board (KWIB), four new members were sworn onto the board.

The KWIB serves as an advisory board to the governor. It is charged with assisting in creating a state plan for the Commonwealth's workforce investment system, development and continuous improvement of a statewide system, designation of local workforce investment areas, development of allocation formulas, designing a statewide employment statistics system, development and continuous improvement of comprehensive performance measures, and preparation of an annual report. In addition, the KWIB is responsible for the administration of vocational and technical education. Members are appointed by the governor and generally serve for a period of four years.

Don Richard Doty, originally from Tennessee, is a resident of Glasgow. He retired from a career as a plant human resource manager and now serves in several Glasgow-Barren County organizations including the Rotary Club, the Little League, and the Bowling Green Technical College board.

Kimberly Black Maffet began her career in the healthcare field in 1990 by earning a nursing degree from the University of Kentucky and later an MBA from Bellarmine College. Currently she is associate vice president of Workforce Development for Norton Healthcare of Louisville. She also serves as the vice chair of Kentuckiana Works and on several other boards.

William R. Parson, Jr. is experienced in farm work, finance, manufacturing, and community and economic development with the Cumberland Area Development District. After retiring, he started a manufacturing company and currently serves as

See Page 6 - New Members Added to Governor's

Campbellsville Job Fair Attracts 230 Job Seekers

The Campbellsville Career Center hosted a job fair on Nov. 3, at the Campbellsville National Guard Armory. The job fair was a great success with 22 employers, 12 agency partners, and approximately 230 job seekers.



Murakami Manufacturing was one of the 22 employers that participated in the Campbellsville Career Center job fair held in November at the National Guard Armory.

Employers attending were pleased with the attendance and the qualifications of the job seekers. One of the employers attending from Lebanon needed to fill 24 positions immediately. They were excited to see enough candidates to fill over half of those positions and have already scheduled them for an interview.

Another employer came looking for a purchasing clerk and was excited to find exactly the person with the experience required.

The Career Center staff represented at the job fair included staff from the Campbellsville Office of Employment and Training, Lake Cumberland Workforce Investment Staff, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Experience Works and Adult Education.

Maysville OET Office Wins Awards

The Maysville OET Office was the recipient of several awards during the TENCO Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Annual Meeting held in October 2005.

For the second year, the Maysville OET received the One-Stop Innovations Award for their leadership in the Minority Youth Career Conference in November 2004. Working with One-Stop partners, area businesses, and community leaders, the Minority Youth Career Conference provided employment information to approximately 125 minority youth.



Barbara Underwood, right, accepted the NADO Award from Board Member Steve Miller during the October TENCO WIB annual meeting held in Morehead. In addition to OET, other partners included in this award were Temple-Inland, Mitsubishi Electric Automotive, NAACP, Dayton Power and Light, Northeast Health Education Training Center, Emerson Power Transmission, FKI Logistex, and the Maysville-Mason County Chamber of Commerce.

The Maysville OET Office, along with its many partners, also received a National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) 2005 Innovation Award for the Minority Youth Career Conference. NADO is an organization that provides advocacy, education, research, and training for the nation's regional development organizations.

Henderson Career Center Holds USPS Employment Briefing

The Henderson Career Center hosted a United States Postal Service Employment Information Briefing for veterans on July 20 in its computer classroom.

Art Hayden, the local veterans employment representative (LVER), coordinated for the informational briefing to take place during the postal examination registration window that was open for postal jobs in northwest Kentucky and southern Indiana.



Chester Hutson, standing, briefs veterans on employment with the United States Postal Service.

Chester Hutson, with the United States Postal Service Diversity Development Office in Louisville, conducted the briefing. A veteran himself, Huston gave the 40 veterans from 10 cities in Kentucky and Indiana an in-depth perspective on obtaining employment with the postal service, the selection process, job choices, and locations.

Following the presentation, the LVER and his Veterans Administration Work-Study students helped the veterans log on to the USPS web site and register to take the postal exam. It was stressed to the veterans that USPS grants Veterans' Preference. Veterans with a 10% or greater compensable service-connected disability are placed at the top of the hiring register, in the order of their test scores. Other eligible applicants are listed below this group in rank order.

\$1.5 Million to Improve the Integrity of System (continued)

In the category of strengthening data integrity and security, funding was received that will enable OET to properly secure critical UI data and claimant personal information that is transmitted across the wide area network. Because OET utilizes the Internet in nearly every aspect of its programs, it is critical to secure the data transmitted as well as protect internal networks from outside intrusion.

Kentucky lawmakers recently passed legislation that mirrors federal legislation, which prohibits private entities to merge or associate with each other or create new entities for the purpose of obtaining lower UI rates. (Referred to as SUTA dumping.) Special software has been developed and tested which helps to detect SUTA dumping activities. Kentucky has long had a fairly effective system of detection based on its Successorship law but OET has been awarded funding to develop and utilize its own software.

OET will be assisted and supported by the Education Cabinet's Division of Technology Services in the development and implementation of these special projects.

New Members Added to Governor's (continued)

co-owner and vice president of two companies. He is a member of the Cumberlands Workforce Investment Board.

Nancy A. Spivey is with the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce where she focuses on workforce recruitment and retention. She is a member of the Northern Kentucky Workforce Investment Board and several other organizations encouraging and supporting employment opportunities.

The KWIB is administratively located under the executive director of the Office of Employment and Training.

UI hosts USDOL Region 3 Denied Claims Accuracy Review

The OET Division of Unemployment Insurance Technical Services Branch recently hosted the U.S. Department of Labor's (USDOL) Region 3 Denied Claims Accuracy (DCA) Review.

For three days, from October 18 through October 20, representatives from the DC National Office and Regional Offices in Atlanta, Boston, Dallas and San Francisco met with state workforce staff from Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee to analyze samples of completed DCA cases using USDOL procedures to ascertain their correctness.

The DCA cases reviewed are part of the annual Benefit Accuracy Measurement (BAM) Program quality control investigations. The three-day exercise also served as a Peer Review involving review and discussion of individual states' law and best practices. The Kentucky agency received the Regional Benefit Accuracy Measurement (BAM) Award in 2004.

OMISSION

***OET Insider*, August 17, 2005, Page 3 -
"Kentucky Receives \$300,000 Workforce
Investment Grant."**

It should have included: The Lincoln Trail Workforce Investment Board is a very important partner in helping workers, businesses and communities affected by the military's 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) plan.

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

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